

3%. The budgeted increase in Franchise Fees is 1.47% or \$50,750, based on recent experience. Franchise Fees are collected in the unincorporated area of the County and are placed in road projects, fleet replacement and building capital projects, which benefits the unincorporated area.

Expenditures

The Fiscal Year 2001-02 Budget totals \$277.2 million, an increase of 5.96% or \$9.63 million from the Fiscal Year 2000-01 amended budget amount of \$261.6 million. This overall increase comprises a combination of grants, property value increase, and increases or decreases among all the different funds included in the total budget.

| Fund Type | Budget 2000-2001 | Budget 2001-2002 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Personnel Expense | 36,292,326 | 39,682,871 |
| Operating Expense | 156,338,300 | 181,900,217 |
| Capital Expenses | 68,994,459 | 55,641,659 |
| | 261,625,085 | 277,224,747 |
| | | |
| Percent Change: | | 5.96% |

New Programs - A limited number of new programs are included in this budget to accomplish essential needs required to continue to operate effectively.

Airport - In order to continue the economic development effort at the Airport and to respond to the growth needs of the community's rapid influx of residents, the construction of the Airport Industrial Park West is critical. The amount of the project will be approximately \$2.7M with matching funds from Florida Department of Transportation(\$1.1M) - Cost for the first year \$550,000.

The Board also approved reorganizing the Airport's existing organizational structure, by adding an Aviation Technician and an Operations Manager - Cost \$80,000.

Extension/Agriculture - A General Facilities Maintenance Technician I and a part-time Extension Program Assistant converted to full time to free up other county employees for other needs - Cost \$52,258.

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Central Services - Seven additional employees were added to complete more projects in-house rather than contracting the projects out. This is not an increase in the budget. The board felt it is more beneficial to hire new personnel rather than pay for contracting services. The challenge is to develop the following; provide faster response times to all work orders; complete projects in a more timely manner; more cost effective; better work quality - Cost \$319,942.

The County also added two new Project Managers to complete more special projects each year in a timely manner and to ensure the County receives quality performance - Cost \$ 136,118.

Community Development/Planning - A Planner III (Current/Comprehensive) was added to assist in the processing and review of current planning and development review processing - Cost \$54,718.

Community Development/Tourism - Increase an existing position from part time Office Assistant I to full time Office Assistant III in order to expand the dissemination of tourism related information materials. Also, a Tourism Marketing & Public Relations Specialist was added to provide St. Lucie County the opportunity to elevate its visibility in destination sales. In generating a higher level of awareness of our area will increase tourism revenue coming into the community and enhance future tourism growth both domestically and internationally.

Community Services - A Community Services Technician II was added to increase the level of service, by responding in a timely manner to clients needs - \$29,006.

County Administrator - In response to requests from the citizens of St. Lucie County to televise the weekly Board of County Commissioner meetings and televise events for the County, the Board authorized a new position for a Media Specialist - Cost \$66,320.

Human Resources - The Board allocated funds for additional staff training, working through Indian River Community College. The goals are to improve customer service skills, employee productivity through team work, time management, human diversity and supervisory training.

Information Technology - Established a Personal Computer Replenishment Program, which will bring the county PCs up to current Windows operating system and keep up with current technology requirements for end-users - Cost approx. \$103,050 per year for four years.

Also, an Information Technology Training Coordinator was added in order to coordinate and provide new employee training, field training, class room training and individualized training in a variety of standard software applications used by the county employees on a daily basis.

Library - A Technical Assistant for the Media Center at the Morningside Branch Library, to operate the media equipment and to provide training for staff and general public - Cost \$54,000.

Also, to better serve the community the Board had decided to open the Main Library on Sundays - Cost \$59,982 (Personnel & Operating).

Mosquito Control - Increase the Mosquito Control District millage by .0636 (from .2121 to .2757). The millage increase is to fully fund the current level of services with District Ad Valorem taxes. Additionally, this increase will enable the District to create a reserve, which will be made available to respond to health related emergencies.

Office of Management & Budget - Three positions were added, two Budget/Grants analysts and a Grant Writer in order to centralize all grant reporting and to ensure correct information is being reported to the granting agencies. This will also promote more county grant activities and opportunities by working closely with local, state and federal agencies - Cost \$144,426.

Additionally, two Staff Accountant positions were added to ensure St. Lucie County financial reporting complies with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 requirements - Cost \$100,000.

Parks & Recreation - Ten additional employees will be added to accommodate customer-focused parks and recreation services to meet the needs of all St. Lucie County residents - Cost \$358,039.

Public Works/Environmental Resources - Five and one-half positions including a Manager were added or transferred to create this department. The primary responsibilities are to provide resource-based recreational opportunities and implement resource management plans on 7,000+ acres acquired through partnerships and the Environmentally Significant Lands Program - Cost \$278,855.

Public Works/Building & Zoning - A Licensing Investigator was added to provide pro-active enforcement of licensing laws in the County - Cost \$38,596, paid from building permits fees.

Utilities - A Senior Accounting Clerk position was added to the department to handle the fiscal responsibilities as the customer base increases. Also, the Utilities department will share one-third of the expense of an Electrician with the Park & Recreation department in order to maintain high level standard of maintenance. - Cost \$53,019.

Veterans - One part-time Driver was added to meet the demands of an increasing veteran population seeking transportation for medical services at the West Palm Beach Medical Center - Cost \$13,668.

Capital Projects - In previous years the difference between the estimated fund balance and actual had averaged about \$2.5 million, which was used to either balance the budget or fund special projects. This year the excess Fund Balance was \$5.2 million, which was the result of the 'Investment for the Future Program', an aggressive economic development program, increased construction value within the County, an ambitious grant program and settlement with Florida Power and Light over contested valuations combined with controlled spending on the part of county departments.

The Board had decided to use \$2.2 million to balance the 2002 budget, \$0.7 million toward the ‘2002 Economy Reserve Fund’, and invest the remainder of these excess dollars toward funding the following projects:

| Revenues (Transferred in from General Fund) | FY '02 New \$ |
|--|----------------------|
| Capital Project | |
| Community Services | 30,000 |
| Engineering | 350,000 |
| Engineering (MSBU's) | 117,000 |
| Central Services - Special Projects | 1,216,050 |
| Erosion | 75,000 |
| Stormwater Management | 150,000 |
| Parks and Recreation | 362,000 |
| | 2,300,050 |
| Expenditures | |
| <i>Community Services</i> | |
| Community Pride | 30,000 |
| <i>Engineering (MSBU's)</i> | |
| MSBU In-house Revolving Loan | 117,000 |
| <i>Parks and Recreation</i> | |
| Parks Referendum -Adv | 25,000 |
| Portable Stage | 100,000 |
| Regional Football/soccer Stadium | 189,000 |
| Civic Center Stage Curtain | 48,000 |
| Subtotal | 362,000 |
| <i>Stormwater</i> | |
| Harmony Heights Stormwater | 150,000 |

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Engineering</i> | |
| Lakewood Park Bike Path Phase 2 & 3 | 150,000 |
| St. James Landscaping | 100,000 |
| Civic Center Parking Lot Drainage | 50,000 |
| Administration Building Parking Lot Addition | 50,000 |
| Subtotal | 350,000 |
| | |
| <i>Erosion</i> | |
| South Causeway Island Erosion | 50,000 |
| North Causeway Island Erosion | 25,000 |
| Subtotal | 75,000 |
| | |
| <i>Central Services - Special Projects</i> | |
| Cowboy Club Arena | 20,000 |
| Lakewood Park Soccer Field | 144,800 |
| Herman's Bay | 47,030 |
| Normandy Beach | 55,220 |
| Lawnwood Stadium Tennis Courts | 120,000 |
| Lawnwood Stadium Softball | 30,000 |
| South Causeway Island Park Improvements | 108,000 |
| Savannas Trail Connection | 15,000 |
| Pepper Park Wastewater | 50,000 |
| Ft Pierce Farms School House ADA | 51,000 |
| Fairgrounds | 575,000 |
| Subtotal | 1,216,050 |
| <i>Total Capital Project Expenditures</i> | <i>2,300,050</i> |

Constitutional Officers - The Sheriff's budget has increased 3.28% or \$1,077.8 million. The Supervisor of Elections budget is up by 17.35% or \$242.0 thousand. The Property Appraiser's budget has decreased by .51%, or \$14.5 thousand. The Clerk of Circuit Courts has increased by 9.25%, or \$314.5 thousand. The Tax Collector's budget is funded from a percentage of taxes collected. The Property Appraiser and the Tax Collector budgets are approved by the Department of Revenue.

\$1,687,371. This year the Board awarded \$1,697,626 - an increase of 0.006 % or \$10,522.

Reserves

A reserve of \$1M was established last year for salary adjustments in the taxing funds. The same amount is budgeted this year for a 3% increase across the board, effective October 1. The balance of the \$1M will continue the implementation of the 4 year salary adjustments program. Contingency reserve is budgeted at \$1M, the same level as last year. The emergency reserves remain at \$8.4 million. This is in addition to the '2002 Economy Reserve' totaling \$ 1,271,720.

Conclusion

This budget reflects the efforts to hold in line the property tax rates, while at the same time making the effort to increase the quality of life in St. Lucie County. We have made progress toward the diversification and enhancement of the county's economic base which is the obvious long term solution. This is beginning to have a positive effect in the county's revenue streams. However, continued growth could generate costs in excess of revenues unless demographics and the economic characteristics of growth patterns continue to change.

Now that we have stabilized the County's operating Budget, we are able to begin addressing the County's long term Capital needs.

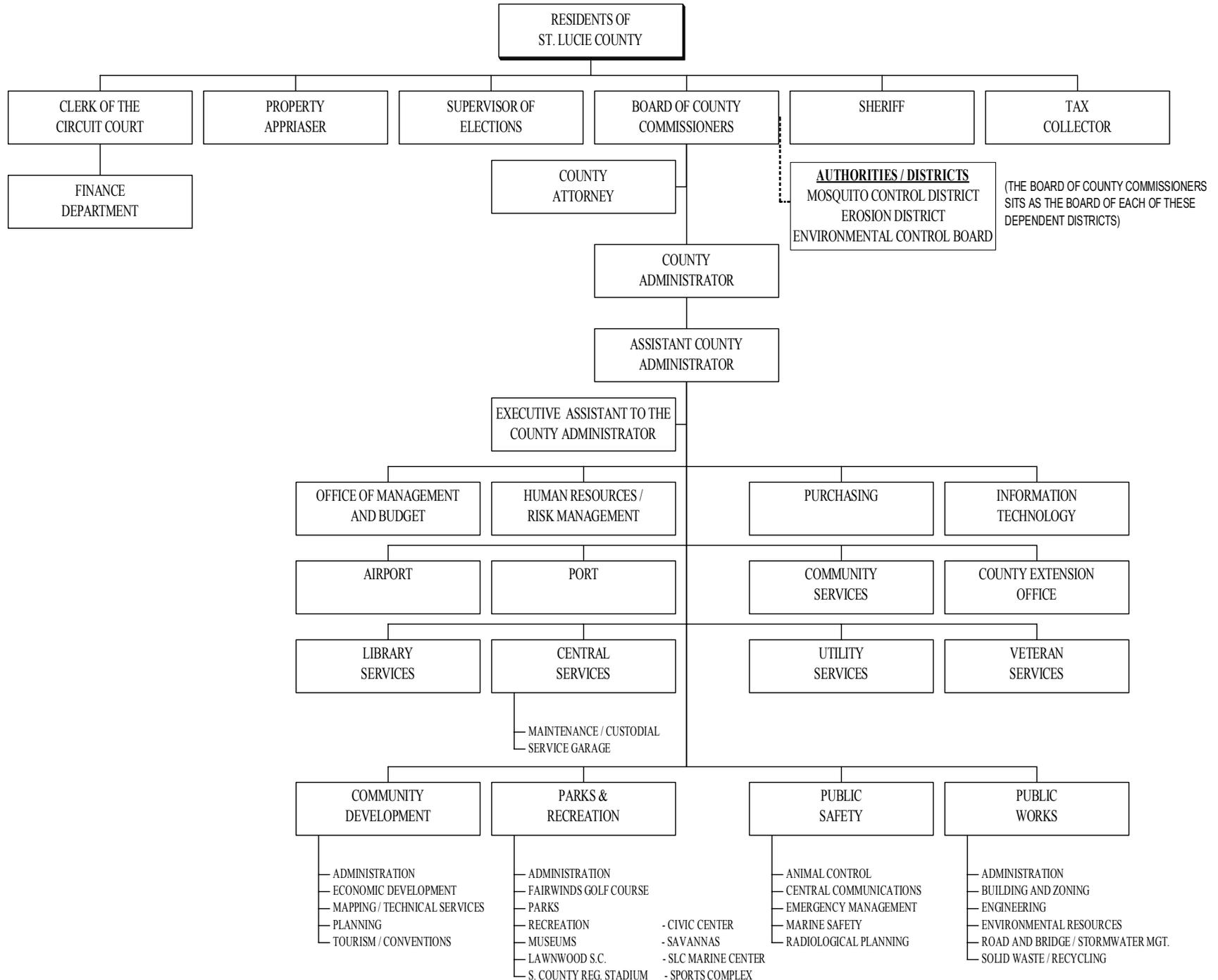
We need to (a) continue to control expenditures and (b) take action necessary to increase revenues, while simultaneously (c) pursue an aggressive and carefully planned economic development strategy to (d) create an economic base adequate to fund desired public service levels on a continuing basis.

Sincerely,

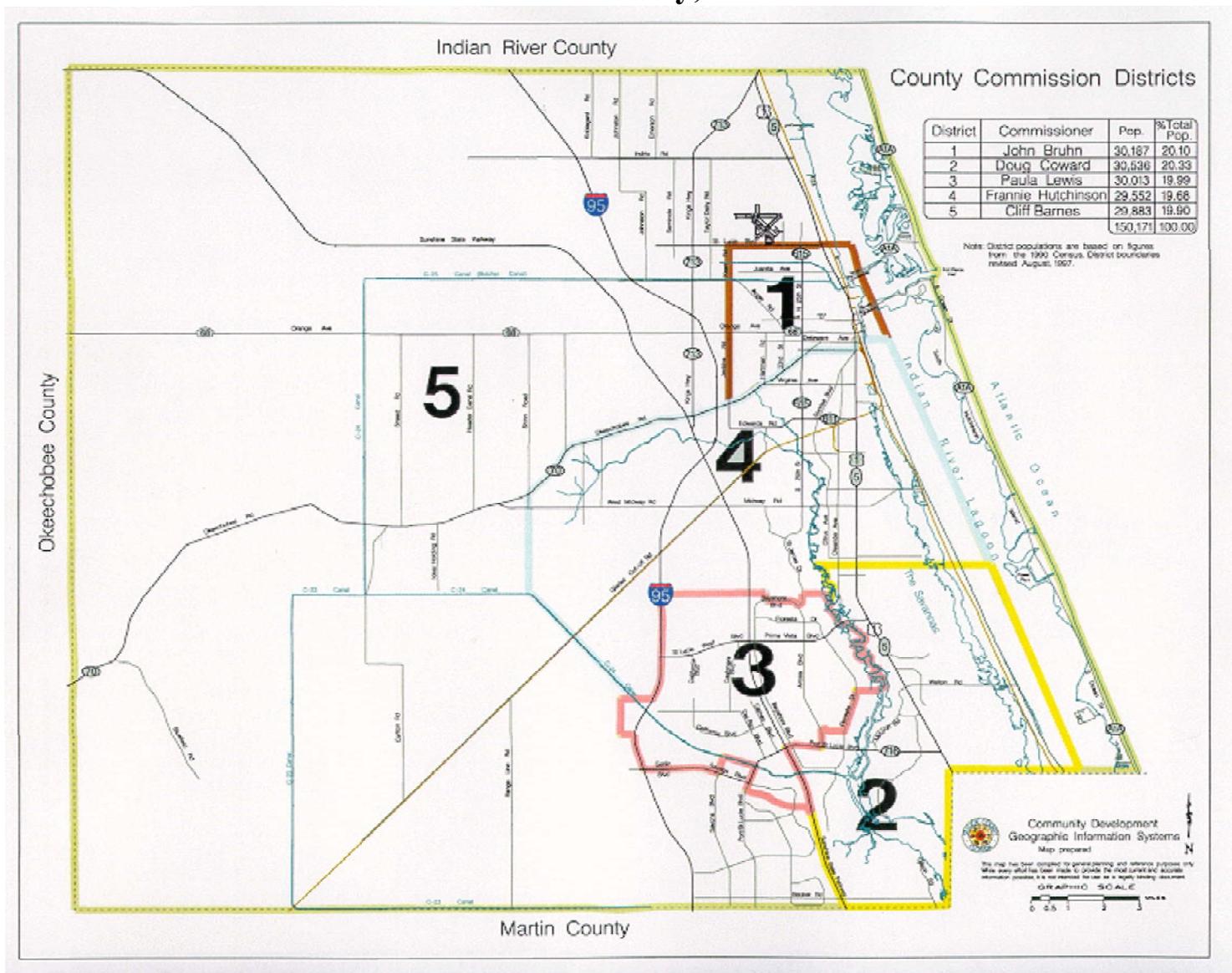
Douglas M. Anderson
County Administrator

September 2001

ST. LUCIE COUNTY



St. Lucie County, Florida



General Information

St. Lucie County is located on the eastern edge of the south-central coast of Florida in the heart of the Treasure Coast region. It is bounded on the north by Indian River County, the west by Okeechobee County, the south by Martin County and the east by the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. The City of Fort Pierce is the County Seat and is located approximately 60 miles north of West Palm Beach and 100 miles southeast of Orlando and all of that city's major tourist attractions.

Some key facts about St. Lucie County are:

Population

St. Lucie County's population in 2000 is estimated by the census at 192,695 which is largely concentrated in the eastern portion of the County within 5-10 miles of the Atlantic Coast. This is a 3% increase over 1999 and a considerable 28.3% increase since 1990. Most of the growth over the past ten years occurred in the City of Port St. Lucie (49%) followed by the unincorporated area (13.6%). The count conducted April 1st of this year placed the City of Port St. Lucie as the 15th largest city in the State surpassing West Palm Beach.

The population of the County is ethnically comprised of 79.1% white, 15.4% black and includes over 8% Hispanic. The median age is 42. Concentrations of the population are: Port St. Lucie - 46%; Unincorporated - 34%; Fort Pierce - 19%; and St. Lucie Village - less than 1%.

Employment

Services, tourism, agriculture, construction and light manufacturing are the principal industries within the County. While St. Lucie County is poised to take advantage of its location, climate and abundant workforce, the growth in employment opportunities has not kept pace with the growth in population. This has resulted in the County having an unemployment rate of 7% in 2000 which while improving is still higher than the state average of 4.3%. To counter this the County initiated an aggressive campaign to attract targeted businesses. Recent successes include a QVC call center, and the relocation of Convergys Corporation, an established customer billing service company. This year, in cooperation with the municipalities, the County has agreed to partially fund the St. Lucie County Economic Development Council whose purpose is to attract higher paying, environmentally friendly companies to this area. We expect significant results within five years.

In 1999 the major areas of employment were:

| | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture..... | 4,741 | Construction..... | 2,938 |
| Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities..... | 2,454 | Manufacturing..... | 2,684 |
| Wholesale/Retail Trade..... | 12,158 | Finance, Insurance, Real Estate..... | 2,353 |
| Services..... | 12,153 | Other..... | 182 |

Major employers within the County are:

Employer

| | |
|--|-------|
| St. Lucie County School Board | 3,400 |
| Lawnwood Regional Medical Center (HCA) | 1,400 |
| Publix Supermarket | 1,260 |
| St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners | 1,009 |
| Florida Power & Light | 790 |
| QVC | 800 |
| Winn Dixie Supermarket | 650 |
| Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute | 650 |
| St. Lucie Medical Center (HCA) | 600 |

